99C-103

4.5 PSP Cover Sheet (Attach to the front of each proposal)

Proposal Title: Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Floodplain Acquisition
Applicant Name: Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
Mailing Address: 242 Kile Lane, Ceres, CA 95307
Telephone: (209) 537-7533
Fax: (209) 537-4644
Email: dboucher@netfeed.com

Amount of funding requested: $ 1,641,941 for 1 years

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box).

- ☐ Fish Passage/Fish Screens
- ☐ Habitat Restoration
- ☒ Local Watershed Stewardship
- ☐ Water Quality
- ☐ Introduced Species
- ☐ Fish Management/Hatchery
- ☐ Environmental Education

Does the proposal address a specified Focused Action? X yes _____ no

What county or counties is the project located in? Stanislaus

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- ☐ Sacramento River Mainstem
- ☐ Sacramento Trib: _____
- ☐ San Joaquin River Mainstem
- ☒ San Joaquin Trib: Tuolumne River
- ☐ Delta: _____
- ☐ East Side Trib: _____
- ☐ Suisun Marsh and Bay
- ☐ North Bay/South Bay: _____
- ☐ Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed)
- ☐ Other: _____

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check all that apply):

- ☒ San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon
- ☒ Winter-run chinook salmon
- ☒ Late-fall run chinook salmon
- ☐ Delta smelt
- ☐ Splittail
- ☐ Green sturgeon
- ☒ Migratory birds
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Spring-run chinook salmon
- ☒ Fall-run chinook salmon
- ☐ Longfin smelt
- ☒ Steelhead trout
- ☐ Striped bass
- ☒ All chinook species
- ☒ All anadromous salmonids

Specify the ERP strategic objective and target (s) that the project addresses. Include page numbers from January 1999 version of ERP Volume I and II:
Stream Meander, Target 1, p. 435; Natural Floodplain & Flood. Processes, Target 1, p. 437; Central Valley Stream Temperatures, Target 1, p. 438; Riparian and Riverine Aquatic Habitat, Target 1, p. 439

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

☐ State agency	☐ Federal agency
☐ Public/Non-profit joint venture	☒ Non-profit
☐ Local government/district	☐ Private party
☐ University	☐ Other: _____

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

☐ Planning	☒ Implementation
☐ Monitoring	☐ Education
☐ Research	

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

1.) The truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;

2.) The individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity or organization); and

3.) The person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section 2.4) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

DAVE BOUCHER, CHAIR, FRIENDS OF THE THOUSAND, INC.
Printed name of applicant

Dave Boucher
Signature of applicant

Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Acquisition

Dave Boucher
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, California 95307
(209) 537-7533
(209) 537-4644 FAX
e-mail: dboucher@netfeed.com

Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

Non-profit 501 (c) (3) Land Trust

Tax ID # 77-0404340

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bobcat Flat Acquisition and Restoration is an opportunity to preserve and restore approximately 280 acres of riparian floodplain on the Chinook salmon spawning reach of the Tuolumne River 12 miles east of Waterford. The project extends along 1.6 miles on the north bank between river miles 42.7 - 44.3. This project extends from the river northward across the historic floodplain. This project is contained within easily recognized boundaries. It is contained on the north by a bluff that rises away, and a high cliff that borders the south bank and the current channel alignment of the river. Therefore, this project covers most of the floodplain between the bluff and the cliff. This project will essentially control both banks of the river due to this arrangement. It has extensive wetlands with river side channels, trees, brush, ponds, and open areas grazed by cattle. The largest threat to this property is the potential for gravel mining that would create deep ponds that are not beneficial to waterfowl. Existing habitat for wildlife and waterfowl would be devastated. The mining would also narrow the floodplain and remove the natural coarse sediment the river has historically meandered through. The river would be confined to a narrow defined channel.

The primary biological/ecological objectives include restoration, reactivation and preservation of ecological processes, habitats, species, and the reduction of stressors. Its habitat complexity and potential for improvement make this project an ideal funding candidate.

This is a phased request for funding. Each phase of the project will determine the funding required to complete the following phase.

After the property is acquired, a conceptual restoration plan will be prepared for public comment. After the conceptual design is finalized, a full restoration plan will be prepared and coordinated with the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee. The plan could include creating shallow ponds for wintering waterfowl, and actions to allow more frequent seasonal flooding. This property is located in the dredger tailings section of the river. The on-sight gravel may need to be partially removed to lower the floodplain. The removed gravel could be used for Chinook salmon habitat restoration.

The budgeted costs are estimated because the property has not yet been appraised and the restoration plan has not yet been prepared. The estimated total cost for acquisition of the 280 acres is $1,778,000, which is higher than floodplain land lower on the Tuolumne River because these lands have coarse gravel reserves. The restoration plan is expected to range from $50-$100,000 based on the initial conceptual design. The higher costs are considered reasonable based on the location (spawning reach) and natural gravel reserves.

No adverse or third party impacts are expected. The project has broad community support. Adjacent landowners do not oppose the project and some are agreeable and supportive.

The Friends of the Tuolumne is a local 501(c)(3) with a strong and experienced Board of Directors. The Board members are professionals who are willing and capable. They are committed to restoring and preserving the Tuolumne River and are working to do so. The

Friends are a signatory to the 1995 FERC Settlement Agreement and participate in the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee. The Friends have strong ties and good working relationships with the agencies in the area, and will be able to draw on these agencies and consultants to bring this project to its full realization.

Monitoring will be designed as part of the restoration plan. Recommendations from California Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee will be considered in plan development. The extent and nature of the restoration will determine the nature and duration of monitoring.

The project is broadly supported locally and by the agencies working on the Tuolumne River through the Technical Advisory Committee. (See attached letter of support A2 and B1 -B10.) Because of its habitat complexity, those interested include fishery, bird, and other wildlife groups.

The project is compatible with CALFED objectives and directly addresses Stream Meander and Natural Sediment Recruitment, Preserves Coarse Sediment Supplies, Natural Floodplain Ecological Processes, Contributes to lowering river water Temperatures, Provides Conditions for Self Sustaining Riparian Vegetation, assists with Species Recovery and Avoidance of future listings, ------all within the Chinook salmon spawning reach.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Acquisition and Restoration is approximately 280 acres of Alluvial Floodplain in Stanislaus County, at river miles 42.7 - 44.3 on the Tuolumne River. It extends for 1.6 continuous miles of river frontage. This project is supported by the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) (See Attachment B.1) and is seen as posing no inconsistencies to river restoration plans. The TRTAC Tuolumne River Corridor Restoration Plan, by Mcbain and Trush, rated this project as the highest priority restoration project remaining on the Tuolumne River (See attachment F) The only other project rated higher is currently in progress by the TRTAC.

The project is intended to Restore Self-sustaining Natural Floodplain Processes, Protect Sediment Sources, Improve Habitat for wildlife and fish, Restore Ecological Processes, Preserve Stream Meander Belt, provide Shaded Riverine Riparian Habitat, Maintain and Recover Species Populations, and others. With proper restoration, this property is capable of making strong contributions to all these listed objectives.

The size of this project is a strength. It extends for 1.6 miles of riverine habitat. Large scale restorations have bonus benefits when compared to several smaller projects of combined equivalent total acreage, cost, and potential. Bigger is better. Large tracts are simply more efficient at restoring natural processes. It is approximately two miles upstream of the gravel mining reach currently being restored by the TRTAC. The proximity to other habitat increases its benefit to the ecosystem.

This project is comprised of three parcels and offered to the Friends of the Tuolumne by two willing sellers. They desire to sell these properties for personal economic reasons. It is their wish that the new owner put it to friendly environmental use. Failing to accomplish an environmentally friendly sale, the properties will eventually be sold to another use that may have adverse effects on the current environmental values. Significant potential exists that this parcel could eventually be pit mined for its gravel resources as the gravel industry begins to deplete its known reserves. Consequences to the Floodplain and associated riverine ecosystem would represent a significant loss. Whatever use it might be put to, the opportunity to use this site for its potential for natural function and restoration would be lost.

This broad floodplain was once the site of former historic and now abandoned channels of the Tuolumne River. Evidence of the former channels is still apparent. River alignment is on the south property line. This project is contained within easily recognized boundaries. It is contained on the north by a bluff that rises away from the floodplain and a high cliff that borders the south bank of the river. This project will essentially control both banks of the river due to the cliff on the south side and the broad floodplain on the north side.

This section of the river is located in the so-called dredger tailing section. This is in the section of the river where extensive gold dredging took place into the 1950's. These parcels have exposed coarse sediment (gravel) and some tailings resulting from gold dredging operations. This is within the Chinook salmon spawning reach. There are several active spawning riffles on this property.

A restoration plan will be developed as part of this project. Until there is a completed plan, specific restoration actions are not known. Restoring and Preserving this floodplain will allow the river to interact with the floodplain in a functional way. Portions of the floodplain are too high for the river to interact with on a regular basis due to its present day reduced flows. Infrequent inundation has resulted in poor natural riparian recruitment.

This is now a small river running in the channel of a once large river. Don Pedro Dam has substantially reduced historic river flows and is recognized as a system Stressor. Harvesting some Coarse Sediment to lower the floodplain elevation may be beneficial in restoring Natural Floodplain Processes. Excess gravel may be available for in-stream habitat restoration work on site and elsewhere.

River Corridor Meander Belts are an important feature to river health. This broad, long floodplain offers the opportunity for meander and Sediment Recruitment from the abundant source of this site.

The Alluvial Floodplain offers fair riparian habitat that supports large populations and a wide variety of wildlife and avian species (See Attachment G). Several small seasonal wetlands and ponds are present on the parcels. They are heavily used by both resident and migratory waterfowl. Increasing their habitat may be beneficial. Several species of special conservation concern have been observed here. There is potential to increase wetlands and riparian habitat substantially without major engineering effort.

Cattle grazing has been the primary use on about 140 acres of this property for many years. The presence of cattle offers benefits and detriments to this riparian area. They maintain some desirable open spaces and keep the plant growth from forming matts of uncontrolled vegetation. When natural colonization of woody plants occurs, the cattle have adverse impacts on their survival.

Replacement of mature climax stage trees is not occurring adequately. The project has some mature trees which provide nesting and roosting, but is in need of restoration to encourage regeneration of large trees such as cottonwood and valley oak. Trees may need to be planted and irrigated to become established in a shorter time. Modified grazing practices may be used as a management tool to improve the available habitat.

Improved riparian habitats will improve the river Foodweb by providing nutrients and woody debris. Water quality may be improved by the riparian buffer belt. The riparian buffer zone would remove contaminants originating from upland agricultural uses so they would not reach the river. Shaded riverine riparian areas will help to reduce stream water temperatures by lowering thermal input.

The west end of this property probably has substantial salmon smolt losses due to stranding. The Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) is currently studying this concern. If it is determined to need correction, the Friends of the Tuolumne would make the property available to the TRTAC for physical alterations that would correct the problem.

This proposal is a phased proposal. Each phase will determine the funding required to accomplish the next task until the project is completed. We believe appraisal costs can be met without CALFED funds, but have no assurance yet, so we are requesting appraisal and acquisition funding in the first phase. We request the appraisal funds as early as possible, and acquisition funding in the November round.

The budgeted costs are estimates because the project has not yet been appraised. We are asking for $62,000 for appraisal costs. Appraisal costs are high because the property will require a mineral appraisal. The quotes we have received for the mineral appraisals range from $35,000 to $59,000. We are also currently working with the Bureau of Land Management to appraise the property since they will likely be the land owner when restoration is complete. The property costs are also estimates. Once the property is acquired, a conceptual restoration plan will be contracted and the public asked for comments. The conceptual plan will be coordinated with the TRTAC to assure our work complements the TRTAC Restoration Plan. A final restoration plan will then be prepared, again coordinating with the TRTAC.

The contractors chosen for the conceptual restoration plan, complete restoration plan, and restoration will be contracted out. When restoration is complete, ownership of the property will be transferred to one of several willing agencies.

Ecological/Biological Benefits

Ecological/Biological Objectives

Restoration, reactivation and preservation of ecological processes, habitats, species, and the reduction of stressors are primary objectives of this project Applicable Visions for the Ecological Management Zone for this project are multiple focused due to its Habitat Complexity and potential for improvement . Functions include: Greater Sediment Supplies, Improved Upper Watershed Health, Improved Foodweb Productivity, Improved Habitats, Including Riparian, Wetland, and Seasonally Flooded Aquatic Habitats, and Reducing the Effects of Gravel Mining.

Ecosystem health will benefit through the actions of this project. The property currently offers good ecological benefits, but does not come near its full potential. Restoration can greatly improve its utility.

These properties are targeted by the current owners to be sold for personal economic reasons. Their preference is to sell to environmentally friendly uses, but failing that, will sell to less environmentally friendly uses, including the possibility of gravel mining. Portions of this property may not currently qualify for extraction permits. As the County reserves are depleted, permitting standards are likely to ease to allow permitting on the entire property. Any alternative sale will result in the loss of opportunity to optimize ecosystem potential or, in all probability, substantial degradation of the ecosystem. Conservation easements are not of interest to the owners.

This Alluvial Floodplain contains substantial Sediment Supplies. Some exist as tailings and much in the form of a floodplain with excessive elevation in many places. Seasonal Flooding can be encouraged by reducing its elevation and using the sediment for in-stream habitat material. Stream Meander or Avulsion processes can be encouraged that will access the ample sediment stores on the floodplain. New seasonal wetlands can be created on this floodplain.

Watershed health can be preserved and improved by Restoring and Protecting a Diverse Riparian Community and the associated Foodweb Habitats can be preserved and improved by Restoring and Protecting the riparian forest and plant communities.

This project will result in the Preservation of the parcels by preventing deleterious uses resulting from an alternative sale. Gravel mining effects can be reduced by preserving it for ecosystem purposes rather than gravel extraction.

Stressors

Stressors associated with this site include: Dams, Water Diversions, Water Temperatures, Poor Livestock Grazing Practices, and Juvenile Salmon Stranding on a project of Riparian Alluvial River Floodplain.

Primary Benefits

A strong association to Chinook Salmon Fishery issues and other wildlife. It possesses a significant Sediment Supply on a wide Alluvial Floodplain, allowing for Channel Meander or Avulsion with Natural Sediment Recruitment. Excess sediment stores can be used for habitat

restoration elsewhere. Other Primary Benefits include: Preservation of the site from deleterious uses, Restoration and Preservation of Natural Floodplain Processes, Restoration and Preservation of Riparian Forests and Communities, enhancement and or creation of habitat for fish, mammal, amphibian, reptile, and avian species.

Secondary Benefits
Improved Water Quality and Contaminant levels, decreased Water Temperatures and Public Access.

Scientific Hypothesis
Adequate quantity and quality of habitat is limiting factor to many wildlife species and closely connected to their abilities to Recover or Maintain their populations. This project addresses that issue by its potential to Restore, Preserve, and create habitats. It will Restore or assist restoration through Self Maintaining Natural Ecosystem Processes and make available Coarse Sediment stores available for augmentation projects elsewhere.

Nature and Basis for Durability
This floodplain habitat is currently inadequate, but stable. Durability of this project should not be degraded. Additional Restoration will improve and increase the quantity and quality of the on-site habitat. The riparian communities will be increased. Riparian forest will be increased and significant native plant species reintroduced. A self-sustaining habitat will be developed that will supply resident and seasonal species requirements. The restoration will have a positive relationship with surrounding properties by acting as a buffer between them and the river environment. The floodplain itself will contribute to riverine health through the natural processes of foodweb nutrient and woody debris input, stream shading (lowering water temperature and cover for migratory fish).

Cattle grazing has mixed benefits and costs to this property. Historic cattle grazing practices will be modified to allow for better natural regeneration of riparian plants and allow planting of introduced plants better opportunity to successfully grow. Multiple adaptive management approaches to grazing practices will be utilized to optimize riparian benefits. A restoration plan to be developed as part of the project will better define specific actions.

Linkages:
A great deal of habitat Preservation and Restoration is currently taking place on the Tuolumne River. Within about two miles downstream, there is a six mile section of channel and riparian restoration in progress. The proximity of the projects will increase their value to wildlife of all kinds.

ERP Actions and Goals:
This project links to ERP actions and goals in the following categories:

Stream Meander, Target 1, Programmatic Action 1A Page 435
Natural Floodplain and Flood Processes, Target 1, Stage 1 Action Page 437
Central Valley Stream Temperatures, Target 1, Stage 1 Action Page 438
Riparian and Riverine Aquatic Habitat, Target 1, Programmatic Action 1A Page 439

Stream Meander can be provided by this parcel. It is a wide floodplain with significant Coarse Sediment. This parcel would provide approximately 280 acres of the Stream Meander belt of the 1,000 acre objective of Target 1. It also complies with Programmatic Action 1A to acquire riparian and meander zone lands from willing sellers to preserve and manage riparian areas on private land.

Natural Floodplain Processes. This parcel has the opportunity to improve its flooding inundation frequency. Lowering some of the high elevation coarse sediment in selected areas would allow portions of the property to flood that do not otherwise flood with regularity. This complies with Target 1 objective to restore and improve opportunities for rivers to inundate (flood) their floodplain on a seasonal basis. It also complies with Stage 1 Action to purchase floodplain land from willing sellers.

Central Valley Stream Temperatures. This property is in the spawning reach of the river. Increased riparian forest and community increase the shade supplied to screen the warming effects of the sun to river water temperatures. Improved Riverine shade will decrease thermal input to river water and thus lower water temperatures...to the downstream boundary of the salmon spawning area.... It also complies with Stage 1 Action to...protecting and restoring riparian habitat.

Riparian and Riverine Aquatic Habitat. This property supports riparian vegetation and can support more and higher quality habitat to support many species. It complies with Target 1 to provide conditions for riparian vegetation growth along sections of river in the East San Joaquin Basis Ecological Management Zone. Easement purchase, as identified in Programmatic Action 1A and 1C, is not available for this property, but fee purchase would accomplish the goal on an important reach of the river where it would otherwise be unavailable.

System-Wide Ecosystem Benefits
This project is principally an Ecosystem Rehabilitation project to reestablish a Functional Self-Sustaining project. As such it interacts with the entire riverine environmental process. A Functional floodplain will supply necessary components to general river health to support a successful fishery and wildlife populations. Synergistic components include elements such as Natural Sediment supply to "seed" the river, water temperature control, support for Channel Meander, wildlife habitats to support traveling populations, and others. An Ecosystem approach has far reaching effects.

Compatibility with Non-Ecosystem Objectives
There are no identified conflicts with Non-Ecosystem Objectives. This project may be of assistance to such objectives by providing a source for coarse sediment to augment depleted stream beds elsewhere in the river.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND TIMING

One of the alternatives considered was the purchase of conservation easements rather than fee title acquisition. The landowners were not interested in selling easements. Another alternative considered was a cooperative agreement with a gravel mining company which would allow limited mining that would have minimum deleterious effects on the riparian habitat. This alternative was not pursued due to its complexity and long time line.

Because this property is being preserved, first of all, and only select areas will be mined, the permits for gravel mining will be simpler when compared to normal mining operations. We anticipate that restoration will need the following: CEQA/NEPA document, California Fish and Game permit, State Reclamation Board flow analysis/encroachment permit, U.S. Army Corp. permit, Regional Water Control permit, State Lands permit, Stanislaus County Planning Department permits (See attached letter A1), Modesto and Turlock Irrigation District approval, and upland landowner permission. These permits and permission will be prepared when the restoration plan is complete.

The property has a legal right of way. If significant gravel reserves are to be hauled off-site for use in salmon spawning habitat or to lower the floodplain, the road would need improvement. It is currently a rough, dirt road. In order to provide public access without interfering with neighbor properties, the trail head will need a small parking lot at the highway. The purchase of the necessary property is not expected to be difficult or costly.

The time line is realistic (completion Spring/Summer 2002) because although the project is large, it is simple. The landowners are willing. The restoration may include grading and replanting. The technical problem will be engineering to increase seasonal flooding without stranding salmon smolt. Once restoration is complete, the project will be self-sustaining in both drought and flood conditions. The river will be allowed to meander across the floodplain. Eager sellers are waiting to for completion of the appraisal. Acquisition should follow quickly.

Although there is a certain level of scientific uncertainty associated with the restoration plan, the basic project uses tested, successful techniques. The property needs only minor adjustments to make large improvements. The questions will center around how much gravel to remove and when should it be removed. It is possible that much of the gravel should be maintained as a natural reserve. Some of the minor restoration projects such as bird boxes and bird nesting platforms have little risk associated with them. The level of cattle grazing can be monitored and adaptive management used to maximize the habitat benefits, including star thistle management.

Because the river is expected to meander, administrative property lines will be recorded to prevent loss of land as the channel migrates across the floodplain. The adjacent landowner on the other side of the river is agreeable. Contractors will be chosen based on bids and qualifications.

This purchase and restoration is technically and politically feasible. It has wide community support, so permitting and permission will be routine. The restoration plan will determine the extent and nature of construction work. At that time, the necessary permits will be acquired.

Monitoring and Data Collection Methodology

Biologic/Ecological Objectives

Protect natural gravel source by preserving this sensitive floodplain from potential gravel mining activities when County gravel reserves are depleted.

- This site may become a gravel pit if not protected. It is in the gravel mining reach of the river with current operations nearby. Its resource may be exploited as new mining sites are sought unless protected. Portions of the property may not currently qualify for extraction permits. As County reserves are depleted, permitting standards are likely to ease to allow permitting on the entire property.

This is property currently contains important salmon spawning and rearing habitat. One of several restoration approaches can significantly improve spawning and rearing habitat as well as reduce smolt stranding that is presumed to be substantial on portions of the property. The project will allow for natural river meander and gravel recruitment from the floodplain.

Avian species are abundant here. Its habitat quality and quantity can be improved with restoration. Several CALFED targeted species use this site.

This is a phased proposal. Appraisal, acquisition, and conceptual restoration design costs are requested in this funding round. Monitoring will not be conducted or planned for this early phase of the project except for seasonal baseline bird counts. Subsequent phases will address the restoration work to be carried out. Monitoring plans will be developed based on the restoration plan. Monitoring will be implemented as appropriate to restoration progress.

Monitoring Parameters and Data Collection Approach

Monitoring will be planned in phase three of the project. Phase three includes the final restoration plan, project restoration, and monitoring plan design. Phase four includes implementation of the monitoring plan and project completion.

Most phases of monitoring will be performed by professional consultants or academic programs. They will establish and recommend protocols for implementation. Duration of monitoring will be dependant upon the nature and extent of the restoration.

Potential issues to be evaluated include the restoration benefits to plants and wildlife.

Data Evaluation Approach

Monitoring evaluation will be performed by professional consultants or academic programs. All results will be provided to the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee, consultants, and as otherwise appropriate.

Local Involvement

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and the Stanislaus County Planning Department have both been notified in writing of this proposed project. (See Attachments A.1, A.2, A.3, and A.4) Brief telephone conversations about the plans took place with both the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department offices subsequent to their notification. The County planning Department is very supportive. County Parks Department has expressed interest in holding title. (See Attachment A.2)

Presentations have been made to the local groups listed below and has included an open dialogue to discuss issues. Information packets have been supplied to all those attending. There has been strong support and no opposition. (See Attachments B.1 through B.10)

Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee
Yokuts Group of the Sierra Club
Stanislaus Fly Fishermen
Stanislaus Audubon Society
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
California Waterfowl Association
Modesto Peace/life Center
Stanislaus County Wildlife Committee
Endangered Species Recovery Program
Stanislaus County Fish and Wildlife Committee

Adjacent or Affected Land Owners

All six neighboring landowners have been contacted by telephone or in person and informational packets have been supplied to them. Their responses range from neutral to very supportive. (See Attachment C) There are no negative responses. Neighboring landowners have expressed some concern about public access considerations to this project. We do not expect this to be a problem because access will be limited to a non-vehicular, no hunting, trail system. Two adjacent land owners are interested in adding a connecting 40 acre parcel this project at a later date. They expressed their interest too late to be included in this proposal.

Public Outreach

This acquisition will be announced by our newsletters and those of the interest groups. Local press releases, local newspaper articles, and forums for the public and neighboring land owners will also be used for notification and public input. The conceptual restoration plan will be offered to all of the groups listed above as well as governmental agencies. Input will be considered in the development of the final restoration plan.

Permission for Property Use or Access

N/A

Identify Potential Third Party Impacts

None

COST

This is a phased proposal. Each phase of the funding request for acquisition through restoration is dependant upon the results of the preceding phase. Phase one will establish the costs to be incurred in stage two, costs of stage three will be established during work done in stage two, etc..

All the budgeted costs are estimates due to the project phasing. Estimated appraisal costs are $62,000 because this property has mineral values that must be determined by mineral appraisers. The quotes we have received for the mineral appraisal, which must then be added to the normal property appraisal, range from $35,000 to $59,000. Property lines also must be established by survey.

The estimated budgeted cost for the property acquisition is based on roughly comparable property within the general area. The quality and quantity of minerals will have a significant bearing on the final, complete appraisal. The property totals approximately 280 acres, some of which has dredger tailings, and some of which has had its tailings scalped for the building of New Don Pedro Dam. It is this bank of minerals that we wish to protect from potential pit mining within the floodplain when established reserves in the County are depleted. We do, however, intend to make a limited amount of the gravel available for salmon spawning habitat restoration as is consistent with project restoration. Purchasing this property will protect the gravel resources.

After the property is acquired, we expect to spend approximately $12,700 to develop a conceptual restoration plan that will address the many opportunities available on this property. The conceptual restoration plan budget includes costs for public outreach.

After the conceptual restoration plan has been finalized, the restoration plan will be begun. Again, the estimated budget cost is rough because the final conceptual restoration plan will determine the extent of engineering, permitting, construction, and planting. This property has potential that will be fully addressed in the conceptual restoration plan.

Monitoring and reporting will be determined by the restoration plan. The extent of monitoring will be determined by the amount of restoration. This project will be self-sustaining and, therefore, will need only short-term monitoring. However, some interested groups may wish to continue monitoring birds and salmon for other purposes.

This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve some of the Tuolumne River floodplain for wildlife habitat. The cost is higher than for property downstream due to the mineral deposits, but this property is within the salmon spawning reach below La Grange Dam, and we believe its purchase will have significant value beyond the obvious riparian habitat benefits.

Please note that the land acquisition is separated so that, if necessary, the Cree property can be purchased first. The Cree property is in the most jeopardy because the property owners are anxious to sell. Although we have a letter of commitment from Ms. Cree for two years, at the end of two years she may sell to a less environmentally friendly use if we have been unable to raise the necessary funds. Mr. Hall will be more patient.

TABLE 3 TOTAL BUDGET (CALFED FUNDS ONLY)

Note: The following budgeted costs are estimates. The project is in the early stages.

Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary & Benefits	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition	Misc	Overhead and Indirect Costs (6 %)	Total Cost
Appraisals, including mineral values, surveys			58,000			3,480	61,480
Land acquisition (Est $6,000/acre)							
Cree property (150 acres)				810,000		48,400	858,400
Hall property (130 acres)				669,000		40,340	709,340
Conceptual restoration plan and public outreach			12,000			720	12,720
Restoration plan and engineering			50,000			3,000	53,000
Restoration, including permits			250,000			15,000	265,000
Monitoring and annual reporting			23,000			1,380	24,380
Totals			393,000	1,479,000		112,320	1,984,320

COST TABLE 4 QUARTERLY BUDGET

	Oct-Dec 99	Jan-Mar 00	Apr-June 00	July-Sept 00	Oct-Dec 00	Jan-Mar 01	July-Sept 01	Apr-June 02	Three Subsequent Years	Total Budget
Appraisals, surveys	62,000									62,000
Acquisitions		1,778,000								1,778,000
Conceptual restoration plan and public outreach		5,500	5,200	2,000						12,700
Restoration plan and engineering					27,100	26,000				53,100
Permitting						12,800				12,800
Restoration including planting							201,000	65,400		266,400
Monitoring (baseline and annually for 3 years after restoration completion)						9,000			15,320	24,320
Totals	62,000	1,783,500	5,200	2,000	27,100	47,800	201,000	65,400	15,320	2,209,320

I —0 1 6 8 8 4

I-016884

Cost-Sharing

Three cash cost-share commitments have been made to this project.

The large majority of the cost-share is a match for property acquisition. Those funds will be deposited into an escrow account for use in funding the property purchase.

The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, $200,000. (See Attachment B.9)

The Stanislaus Fly Fishermen $1,000. (See Attachment B.7)

The remaining cost-share is in the form of direct administration costs and in-kind service.

Friends of the Tuolumne cash contribution for direct project costs, $4,000.

Office expenses	$ 2,000
Transportation Expense	$ 2,000

Friends of the Tuolumne in-kind administrative expense, $20,000.
200 hours administrative @ $100/hr. $20,000

Total Cost-Share: $225,000

I-016885

Applicant Qualifications:

The Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc. (FOTT) is a local grass-roots watershed group. We are incorporated as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) land trust. The organization focuses exclusively on riverine issues of the lower Tuolumne River. The narrow scope allows us to be intensely focused and well informed about issues of the Tuolumne River.

The Board members are experienced non-profit officials with past and present posts with the Yokuts Group of the Sierra Club, CalTrout, East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, Stanislaus Fly Fishermen, Ecology Action, Peace Life Center, Tuolumne River Preservation Trust, San Joaquin River System Committee, Habitat Restoration Project–Tuolumne River, Tuolumne River Action Committee, and various professional associations. We have extensive ties throughout the local community (See attached letters of support A.1 - B.9.).

Years of exposure to Tuolumne River issues in many different forums has made us effective proponents for the river. FOTT has become an organization with considerable technical skills and very efficient administrators. Our volunteer Board of Directors consists of a CPA, engineer, lawyers, and people who have made wildlife issues life-long passions. They possess the practical skills necessary to complete the goals of this project. Two Board members successfully administered gravel restoration projects on the Stanislaus River in 1997 and 1998 on behalf of the Stanislaus Fly Fishermen.

Our organization formed in 1992 to protect and improve Tuolumne River conditions. In 1994 FOTT filed as an intervener in the re-licensing process of the New Don Pedro Dam. FOTT is a signatory to the 1995 New Don Pedro Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Settlement Agreement (FSA). We negotiated with ten other parties including government agencies and environmental groups in a complicated and time consuming FERC mediated process. Many positive environmental policies concerning dam operations, water releases, fishery management, and restoration resulted from the FSA.

As a signatory to the FSA, FOTT is an active participant in the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC). It is the responsibility of the TRTAC to implement the conditions imposed by the FSA. Members and consultants of the TRTAC are a highly qualified collection of diverse specialties. Their individual focuses include fisheries, wildlife, engineering, administrative, legal, botany, and others.

Through FOTT's involvement with the TRTAC, we have developed relationships with all the agencies and groups active in Tuolumne River issues. They have become valuable resources and FOTT in turn provides them with our knowledge and perspective. We have discussed this project with all the participants of the TRTAC and others. They have offered their support, guidance, and council as needed to accomplish this project. We will make best use of these information resources.

A great deal of this project will be administrative. Our Organization is very capable of dealing with the business and legal issues associated with it given the backgrounds in business,

accounting, and law that we possess. Administration capacity is a great strength for us. No matter how many agencies, groups and individuals offer their assistance, it will ultimately be our responsibility to get the project completed, and we have the people and skills to do just that.

Technical wildlife habitat issues will be done on a consultant basis with one of the several firms available. Examples of consultant tasks will include items such as restoration plans and fishery and wildlife issues.

The specifics of the restoration work required will be determined when the restoration plan is completed. Contractors will be engaged for implementing the restoration plan.

The TRTAC will review the restoration plan for its compatibility with river-wide restoration activities and goals. The TRTAC supports FOTT in this project. (See attachment B.1)

The Anadromous Fish Restoration Program has offered their assistance and will budget year 2000 funding toward restoration.

The Bureau of Land Management has committed to accept title to the property at completion of restoration work and to maintain the parcel for preservation purposes.

The Stanislaus Audubon Society has committed to doing regular seasonal bird monitoring.

Funding received from: The Stanislaus Fly Fishermen $1,000 (See Attachment B.7)
The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District $200,000 (See attachment B.9)

See attached Brief Biosketch of Friends of the Tuolumne Board of Directors (E.1) and Brief History (E.2).

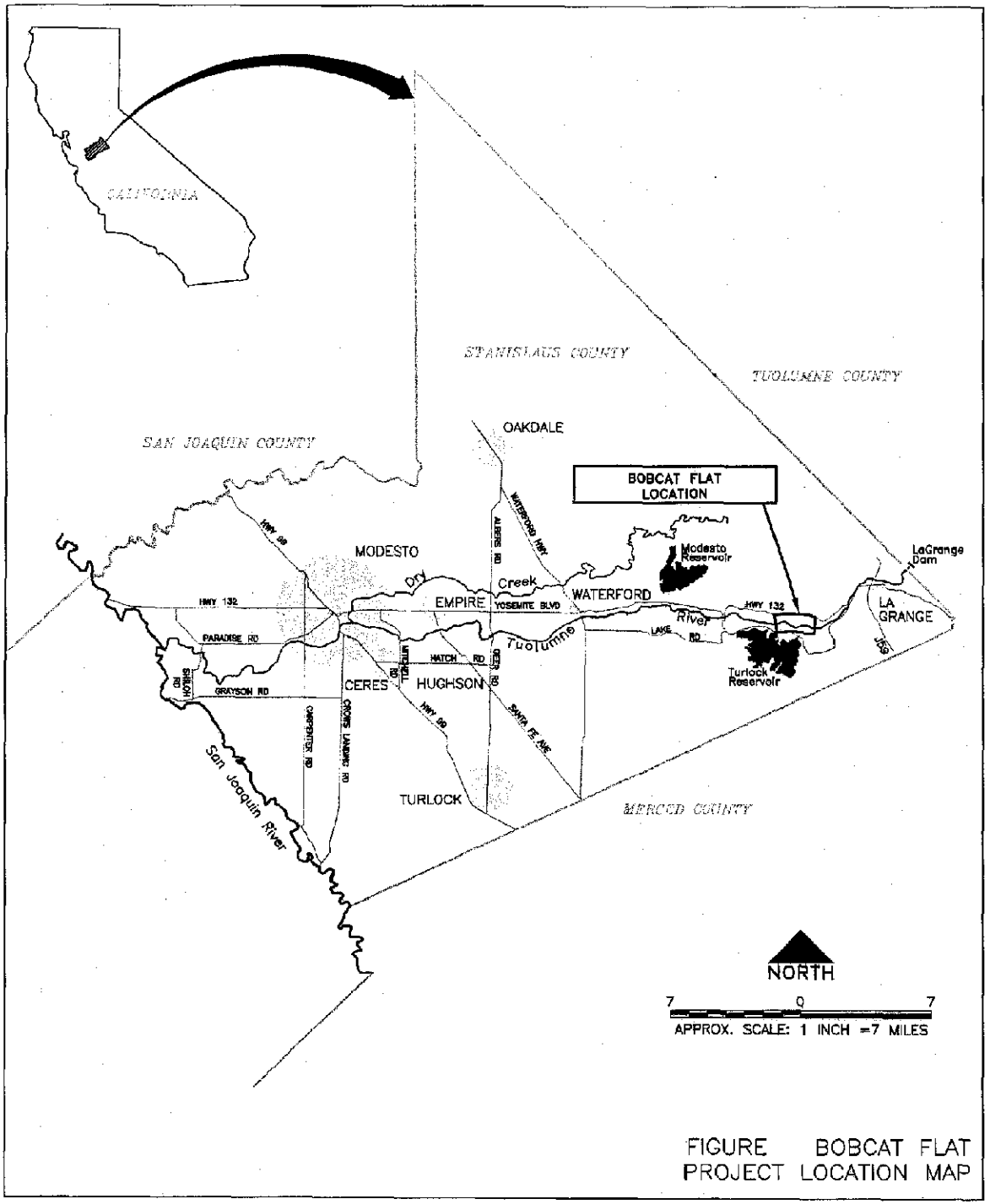
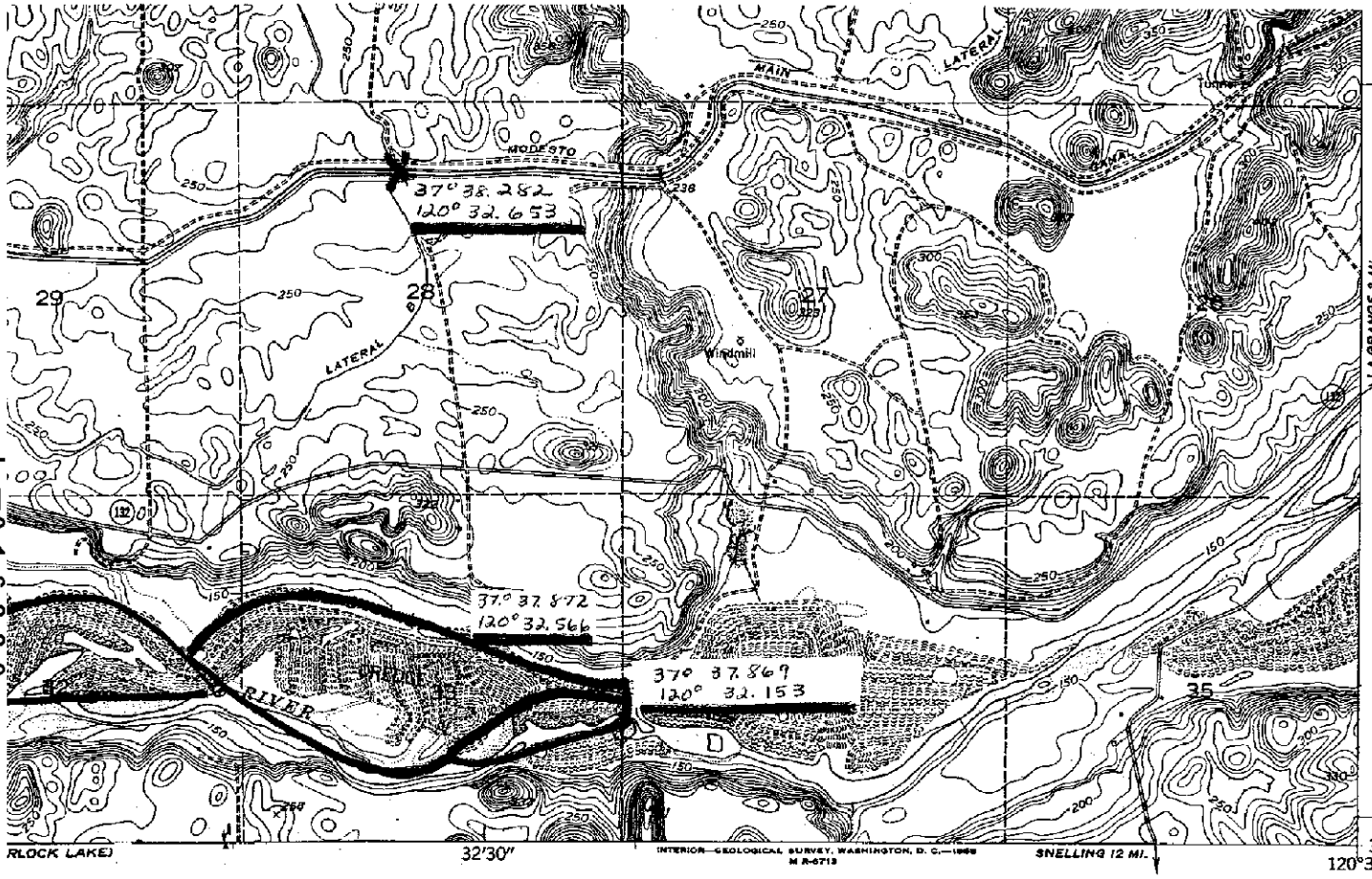


FIGURE BOBCAT FLAT
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

I -016888

I-016888



I—016889

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1955
M R-6713

ALE 1:24000

0 1 MILE

3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

0 1 KILOMETER

INTERVAL 10 FEET
ESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE | 6 LANE Light-duty

Medium-duty 4 LANE | 6 LANE Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route State Route

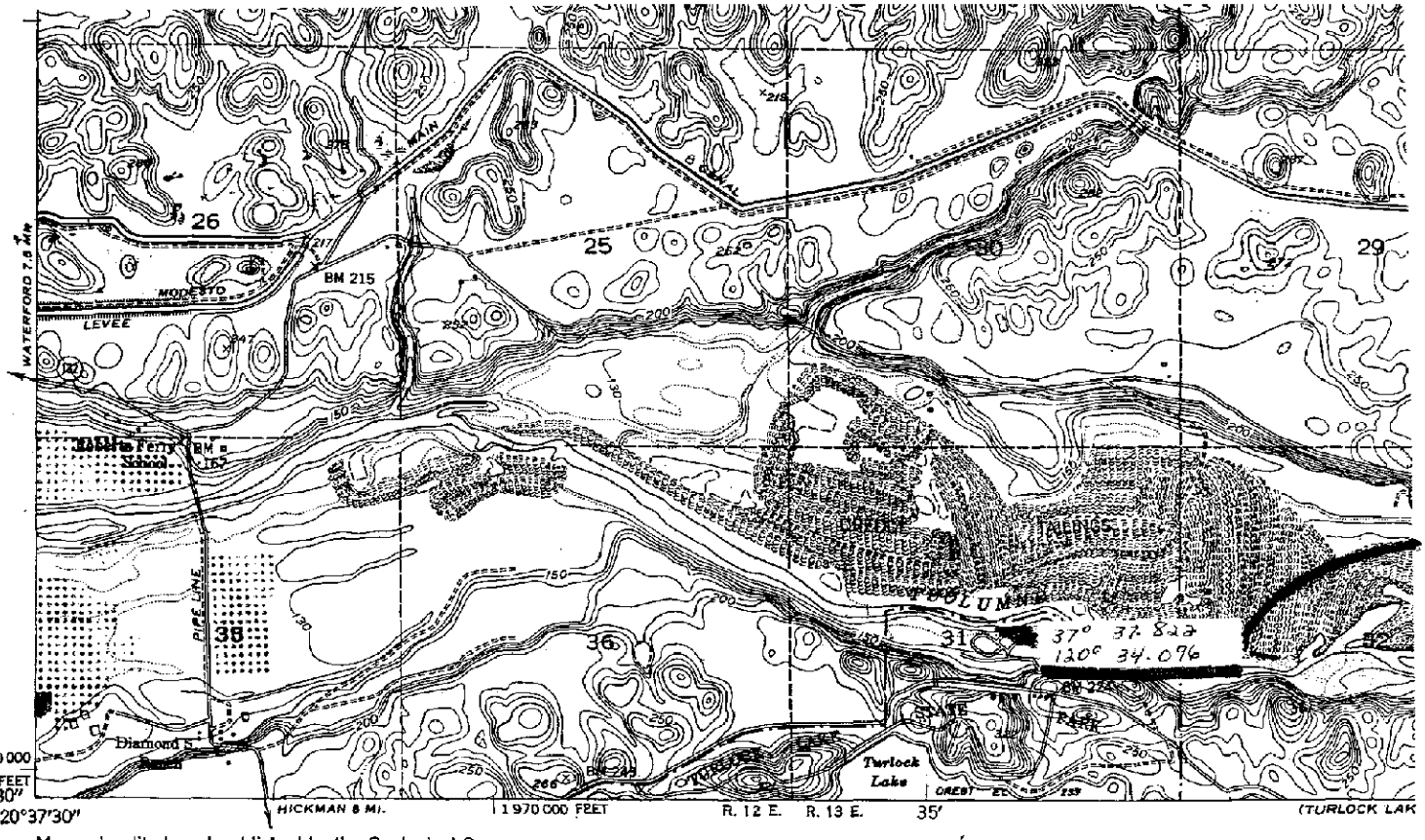
CALIF

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

COOPERSTOWN, CALIF.

N3737.5—W12030/7.5

1953



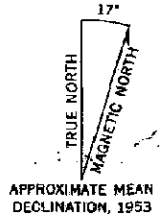
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by plane-table surveys 1913
Culture and drainage revised from aerial photographs taken 1950. Contour revision and field check 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3

Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1953

SCALE 1:240(

1 0 1/2

1000 0 1000 2000 3000

1 0 .5

CONTOUR INTERVAL
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT HALF-I
DATUM IS MEAN SEA

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER,
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND S

I—016890

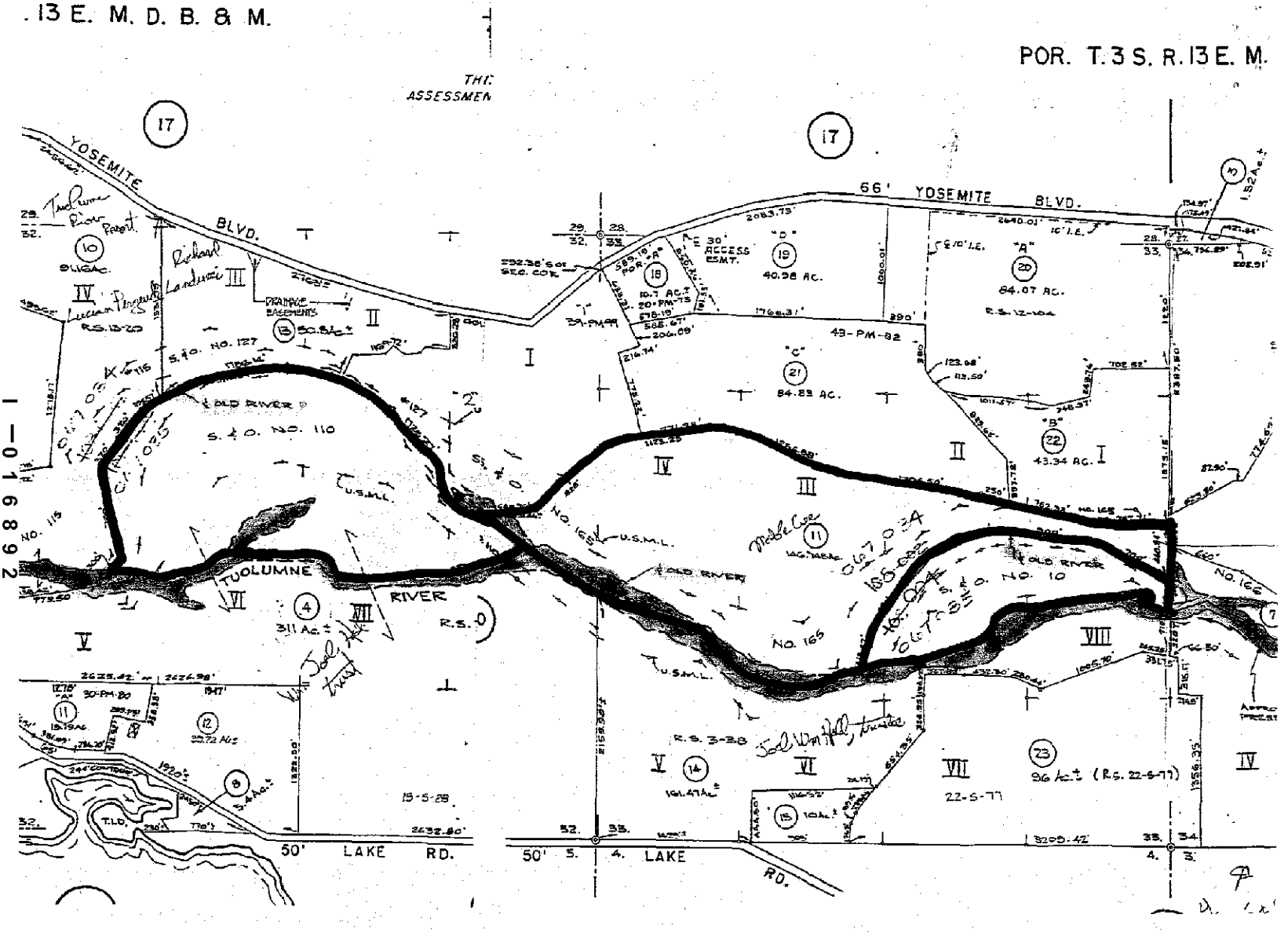
I-016890

NORTH
750 0 750
SCALE: 1 IN = 750 FT

LEGEND
TUOLUMNE RIVER
PROPOSED LAND PURCHASES

FIGURE . TUOLUMNE RIVER (RM 42.7–4
BOBCAT FLAT LAND ACQUISITION PAR
OVERLAIN ON 1997 AERIAL PHOTOGR

I-016891


.13 E. M. D. B. & M.
POR. T. 3 S. R. 13 E. M.
17
YOSEMITE BLVD.
66' YOSEMITE BLVD.
TUOLUMNE RIVER
OLD RIVER
S. & O. NO. 110
S. & O. NO. 127
S. & O. NO. 165
S. & O. NO. 10
U.S.M.L.
DRAINAGE EASEMENTS
ACCESS ESMT.
40.98 AC.
84.07 AC.
84.83 AC.
43.34 AC.
311 Ac.±
96 Ac.± (R.S. 22-6-77)
161.47 Ac.±
22-S-77
R.S. 3-38
R.S. 12-104
49-PM-82
39-PM-98
20-PM-75
30-PM-80
50' LAKE RD.
I-016892

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

STD. 19 (REV. 3-95) FMC

COMPANY NAME

Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

David Boucher, President

DATE EXECUTED	EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF
April 2 1999	Stanislaus

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

David Boucher, President

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

President

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.

I-016893

I-016893

Stanislaus County

Department of Planning and Community Development

1100 H STREET MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354

PHONE: (209) 525-6330
FAX: (209) 525-5911

March 24, 1999

Dan Boucher, President
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, Ca 95307

RE: Tuolumne River Flood Plain Acquisition

Dear Mr. Boucher,

Thank you very much for your letter dated March 21, 1999 describing the planned purchase of land located along the Tuolumne River. This sounds like a worthy project with significant long term benefits to the entire ecosystem of the Tuolumne.

I wanted to write to you to comment on one aspect of your Project Description. You indicated a desire to do gravel mining on the property. Mining is an allowable use in the A-2-40 zoning district which covers the property, but only after a use permit and reclamation plan have been approved by the County Planning Commission. These are discretionary approvals which, depending on the complexities of the individual request, can take several months or more to complete. Although you did not list any specific time frame details, I thought you would like to know this in order to integrate the use permit process into your overall program.

If you have any questions about the use permit, please feel free to call me. I will be sending a copy of your letter over to the County Board of Supervisors in order that they can be made aware of your very laudable efforts. Let us know if there is anything that the County can do to assist you.

Sincerely,

Bob Kachel
Senior Planner

A.1

I —016894

I-016894

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, SUITE C, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95358 (209) 525-6750 FAX (209) 525-6774

April 7, 1999

Friends of the Tuolumne
C/O Dave Boucher
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Mr. Boucher,

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has received your letter in regards to the Bobcat Flat Riparian Acquisition and Restoration Project. The Board has referred your project to the Parks and Recreation Department for further review and response.

We view the acquisition project as a great opportunity to preserve and restore part of the Tuolumne River corridor. There are benefits to this project that will be realized by both the wildlife and the public as well. There are unmet needs and local public support for walking areas, hiking trails, and general nature study. There is also public support for the dedication and conservation of portions of land which display the unique natural resources of the County. We support your acquisition project and look forward to collaborating with you when the opportunities arise!

Sincerely,

Steve Brodie

Steve Brodie
Regional Park Supervisor

A.2

I -016895

I-016895

Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, California 95307
(209) 537-5628
Working for the Benefit of the Tuolumne River

March 21, 1999

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
1100 H Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that the Friends of the Tuolumne (FOTT), a 501(c)(3) land trust, based in this community, is planning a land acquisition in Stanislaus County. Our intention is to acquire approximately 250 acres of Tuolumne River flood plain in Stanislaus county, 12 miles east of the town of Waterford. The property owners, Mr. Joel Hall and Ms. Mable Cree, are willing sellers, and wish to complete a sales transaction with FOTT. Such sale is contingent upon agreeing to mutually acceptable terms. FOTT will be applying for grant money to finance this purchase from CALFED and other sources.

FOTT will be the short term title holder until restoration work is completed. At that time, the property will be placed into public ownership. We are currently interviewing public agencies and have received commitments and tentative commitments to accept possession at that time.

If you have any questions in regard to this acquisition, please call.

Sincerely,

Dave Boucher

Dave Boucher
President

Enclosure: Brief project description

Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, California 95307
(209) 537-5628
Working for the Benefit of the Tuolumne River

March 21, 1999

Stanislaus County Department of Planning
and Community Development
1100 H Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that the Friends of the Tuolumne (FOTT), a 501(c)(3) land trust, based in this community, is planning a land acquisition in Stanislaus County. Our intention is to acquire approximately 250 acres of Tuolumne River flood plain in Stanislaus county, 12 miles east of the town of Waterford. The property owners, Mr. Joel Hall and Ms. Mable Cree, are willing sellers, and wish to complete a sales transaction with FOTT. Such sale is contingent upon agreeing to mutually acceptable terms. FOTT will be applying for grant money to finance this purchase from CALFED and other sources.

FOTT will be the short term title holder until restoration work is completed. At that time, the property will be placed into public ownership. We are currently interviewing public agencies and have received commitments and tentative commitments to accept possession at that time.

If you have any questions in regard to this acquisition, please call.

Sincerely,

Dave Boucher
President

Enclosure: Brief project description

I —0 1 6 8 9 7

I-016897

TUOLUMNE RIVER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DON PEDRO PROJECT - FERC LICENSE 2299

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

333 East Canal Drive
Turlock, CA 95381-0949
Phone: (209) 883-8275
FAX: (209) 636-2143
Email: tjford@tid.org

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, California 95307

April 7, 1999

Dear Mr. Boucher:

The Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) is a product of the 1995 Don Pedro Project FERC Settlement Agreement (FSA). The FSA is a precedent-setting document signed by 11 parties representing water districts, government agencies, and environmental groups, including the Friends of the Tuolumne (FOTT). The TRTAC has prepared a Restoration Plan for the 52-mile reach known as the Lower Tuolumne River from La Grange Dam to the San Joaquin River. Both the FSA and the Restoration Plan recognize the importance of riparian habitat and the need for its restoration.

The TRTAC supports the proposal by the Friends of the Tuolumne for acquisition and restoration of riparian habitat on about 250 acres of the Tuolumne River floodplain known as the Bobcat Flat Project. This site at approximate river mile 42.4 to 44.6 (Right Bank) is consistent with and complimentary to habitat restoration provisions identified in the FSA. The TRTAC believes the Bobcat Flat Project represents a significant opportunity to preserve and restore riparian habitat.

Authorized by and signed on behalf of the TRTAC,

Tim Ford

Tim Ford
Coordinator, TRTAC
Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts

George Neillands
California Department of Fish and Game

Susan Boring
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ron Yoshiyama
City and County of San Francisco

Tim Ramirez
Tuolumne River Preservation Trust

John Parnkopf
Bay Area Water Users Association

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne

CC: TRTAC distribution

B.1

I -016898

I-016898

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Folsom Field Office
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, California 95630

Dave Boucher
President, Friends Of The Tuolmne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

CA-180-.015

Dear Dave:

The Bureau of Land Management supports your organization in acquiring the 280 acre Bobcat Flat Riparian Area. The acquisition of this important riparian habitat will have long range benefits for wildlife as well as humans. This varied riverine habitat will provide spawning potential for anadromous fish, as well as habitat for many animal species.

These lands, located in Township 3S. Range 13E. Section 32 and 33 could be managed as public lands to protect and enhance the riparian and wet land qualities of this property, as well as providing recreational opportunities.
This letter is to acknowledge the Bureau of Land Management's willingness to accept title to the property if offered.

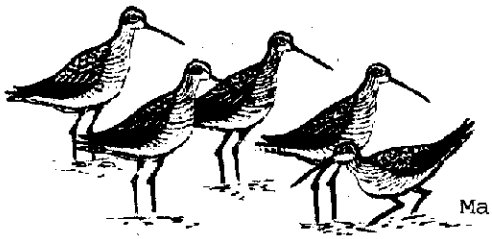
Best of luck with this project.

Sincerely,

James M. Eicher
Acting Folsom Field Manager

I -016899

I-016899



Stanislaus Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 4012 • Modesto, CA 95352 • (209) 521-0108

March 15, 1999

Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Attention: Dave Boucher, President

RE: **Bobcat Flat Property Acquisition and Restoration**

Dear Dave:

The Stanislaus Audubon Society has taken an interest in the Tuolumne River for many years. You may know that we purchased Chrisman Island and subsequently donated it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We also encouraged our U.S. Congressional Representative, Gary Condit, to initiate the process necessary to acquire flood-prone lands for the San Joaquin Wildlife Refuge. That acquisition added 3,000 acres to the refuge.

We are, therefore, very supportive of your efforts to acquire the 250 acres on the Tuolumne River named Bobcat Flat. The property will be a valuable addition to the riparian corridor after its restoration. The expansion on both sides of the river to a wider and more natural pattern is invaluable for migrating and nesting birds.

We will gladly support your efforts by committing to regular seasonal bird counts for your monitoring requirements.

We hope to hear from you soon that the acquisition has been completed. In the meantime, we have scheduled the first bird count for the last weekend in March.

Very truly yours,

STANISLAUS AUDUBON SOCIETY

David J. Froba,
President

DJF/mw

I —016900

B-3

STANISLAUS COUNTY
FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, SUITE C, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95358

April 7, 1999

Friends of the Tuolumne
C/O Dave Boucher

Dear Dave:

The Stanislaus County Fish and Wildlife Committee, would like to acknowledge as well as support the acquisition of the property along the Tuolumne River that you presented to us at our meeting on March 30, 1999. The committee feels that acquiring this significant parcel of land for restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat and wetlands restoration is a project that merits our support. When an opportunity arises that would provide for so much, for habitat improvement as well as improve water quality and riparian preservation, we feel that all efforts should be made to acquire land whenever possible.

Ed Channing

Dr. Ed Channing
Chairman, Stanislaus County Fish and Wildlife Committee

I-016901

YOKUTS GROUP

MOTHER LODE CHAPTER -- SIERRA CLUB

P. O. BOX 855

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95353

March 30,1999

Dave Boucher
President
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Dave,

re: Bobcat flat acquisition and restoration

Thank you for your work to acquire the 250 acres on the Tuolumne River called Bobcat Flat. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to preserve and restore riparian habitat on such a valuable piece of the river. The property offers so much in the way of wildlife and native plant habitat.

We hope this is just one of many restoration and preservation projects along our river. If we can help in any way please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jackman
Chair

I -016902

I-016902

California WATERFOWL

Conserving California's waterfowl, wetlands, and waterfowling heritage.

March 7, 1999

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, Ca 95307

Dear Friends of the Tuolumne

The California Waterfowl Association has reviewed the proposed land acquisition on the Tuolumne River refereed to as Bobcat Flat. We believe that the project has strong habitat benefits for multiple species of wildlife. Its benefits to migratory waterfowl is of special interest to us. Preserving and enhancing habitat for migratory birds is an important key to their survival. Critical habitat has been lost to conversion to other uses. Continued development pressures threaten migratory avian species existence. Your project will assist in maintenance and recovery of these species by preventing its loss to development and through restoration to improve its potential for supporting them.

The California Waterfowl Association supports your efforts to acquire Bobcat Flat.

Sincerely,

David W. Patterson
Director of Wetland Programs

California Waterfowl Association

4630 Northgate Blvd.
Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

TEL: (916) 648-1406
FAX: (916) 648-1665

I-016903

I-016903

Stanislaus Fly Fishermen, Inc.
PO Box 576131
Modesto, California 95357-6131

April 1, 1999

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Dave:

The Stanislaus Fly Fishermen is a club comprised of members who share an interest in the sport of fly fishing. Another keen interest of our club is restoration and preservation of the fishery, wildlife, and associated habitat.

It is with great pleasure that we learn that the Friends of the Tuolumne are pursuing restoration and preservation of our natural wildlife and habitat at the site known as Bobcat Flat.

We strongly support the efforts you are making to acquire, restore, and preserve converted habitat. Your actions will assist in the recovery of the Tuolumne River fishery and other wildlife species.

It is our pleasure to pledge $1,000 toward the cost of acquisition of the project. In addition we include a check for $500 for the purpose of assisting Friends of the Tuolumne with the administrative costs associated with your effort.

Sincerely,

Jack Morris
President

MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER

P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353

March 25, 1999

Dave Boucher, President
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Dave:

Bobcat Flat Property Acquisition

Wildlife habitat protection and restoration are of great interest to us. Your work to acquire the 280 acres on the Tuolumne River called Bobcat Flat will add another section to the river providing habitat for our wildlife. Restoring the land will provide habitat that has become less and less abundant.

Thank you for your work. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Samuel R. Tyson
President

EAST STANISLAUS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E – Tuolumne Building
(near the intersection of Crows Landing & Service Roads)
Modesto, Ca. 95358 (209) 491-9320

April 8, 1999

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Dave:

Thank you for presenting the Bobcat Flat Project to the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) Board of Directors. The proposed approximate 280 acre property acquisition and restoration that you described has strong riparian habitat and public benefits. We support your efforts in this project and look forward to its successful completion.

To assist in the project, the ESRCD has resolved to provide the lessor of $200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) or 10% of the property purchase price.

These funds will be available for this purpose until January 1, 2003, the expiration of the CALFED funding process, or until a final determination of denial of the request for CALFED funding, whichever comes first.

The ESRCD funds will be placed into an escrow account on a timely basis to complete the full purchase price of the property.

Sincerely,

John Hertle

John Hertle, Chairman

The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District is committed to conserving, improving and sustaining the natural resources, environment, and economy of Eastern Stanislaus County

I –016906

B 9

I-016906

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS
801 West Monte Vista Avenue · Turlock, CA 95382
Endangered Species Recovery Program
Department of Biological Sciences
(209) 667-3476 Fax 667-3694
12 April 1999

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Dave:

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to visit the property referred to as Bobcat Flat. Our evaluation of the site reveals valuable riparian habitat for many species of wildlife.

Our interest in the site is particularly focused on its potential to support a reintroduction of the riparian brush rabbit. Population declines over the years have caused concern that it might be extirpated. The primary need for its population is suitable riparian habitat. The only known population of riparian brush rabbit is in Caswell State Park. The opportunity to introduce it to this new location would have a beneficial impact for the species.

Currently, the largest known extant population of riparian brush rabbits is located in Caswell Memorial State Park (MSP) on the Stanislaus River in southern San Joaquin County. Caswell MSP is subject to regular, prolonged flooding and is at high risk of wildfire due to long-term fire suppression coupled with minimal vegetation management practices. Natural dispersal of riparian brush rabbits from Caswell MSP is unlikely due to the small, highly fragmented nature of their remaining habitat and their dependence on nearly contiguous cover. Because of its restricted distribution and limited capacity for dispersal, the riparian brush rabbit is at high risk of imminent extinction from flooding, wildfire, disease, and demographic stochasticity. Consequently, the establishment of other viable populations within the historical range is crucial to preventing the extinction of the rabbit. The soon-to-be listed riparian woodrat shares the same habitat, restricted distribution, and threats to its existence as the brush rabbit, and a similar recovery strategy.

The Endangered Species Recovery Program strongly supports your efforts to acquire this valuable riparian community. Its protection, preservation and restoration will benefit the riparian brush rabbit recovery and the many other mammals, birds, and fish.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Williams,
Chairman and Coordinator

I —016907

B10

I-016907

Lone Tree Farm & Vista del Rio

23806 Yosemite Blvd. ~ Waterford, CA 95386 ~ U. S. A.
Phone (209) 874 - 3401 ~ Fax (209) 874 - 3401

April 03, 1999

Dave Boucher
Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, Ca 95307

Dear Dave,

I am a landowner of property adjoining the property you refer to as Bobcat Flat. You have made me aware of your plans to acquire approximately 280 acres of flood plain property known as Bobcat Flat. I have studied the material you delivered to me explaining the project and am very supportive of the project you have described. I look forward to seeing this property protected and restored for its riparian values.

My estate will distribute my property to the National Wildlife Federation. The cumulative effect of these combined property blocks is an exciting prospect.

Sincerely,

Connie Arthur, owner
Lone Tree Farm and Vista del Rio
23806 Yosemite Blvd.
Waterford, CA 95386

I —016908

I-016908

Green Tree Nursery

23979 LAKE ROAD
LA GRANGE, CALIFORNIA 95329
OFFICE (209) 874-9100
IN CA (800) 350-4414
FAX (209) 874-2381

March 24, 1999

Friends of the Tuolumne
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, CA 95307

Dear Friends of the Tuolumne,

In regards to the Cal-Fed process, I would like to extend to you that we are open to negotiating a sale of approximately 140 acres along the Tuolumne River.

It has been my desire to put this riparian habitat into some kind of reserve for now and the future.

Sincerely,

W. Joel Hall

W. Joel Hall
Hall Family trust

I -016909

D.1

I-016909

Mabel Cree
22430 Yosemite Boulevard
Waterford, California 95386

March 25, 1999

Mr. Dave Boucher, President
Friends of the Tuolumne, Inc.
2412 Hilo Lane
Ceres, California 95307

Dear Dave:

The Friends of the Tuolumne have entered into discussions with me for the sale of property I own on the Tuolumne River. This letter is to confirm for the purposes of CALFED funding, that I am a cooperative, willing seller of the 147 acres we are currently discussing. I commit to remain so for at least two (2) years from this date.

I look forward to working with the Friends of the Tuolumne in the coming months to complete the sale of this property.

Sincerely,

Mabel Cree

Mabel Cree

0.1

I -016910

I-016910

Brief Biosketch:

Dave Boucher, President
Perfusionist
FERC Settlement Agreement negotiator
TRTAC representative, FOTT
Past President, Stanislaus Fly Fishermen
Treasurer, Stanislaus Fly Fisherman
Associate Director, East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
Gravel restoration project, Stanislaus River, 1997 and 1998

Allison Boucher, Treasurer
CPA
FERC Settlement Agreement negotiator
TRTAC representative, FOTT
Tuolumne River Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee Representative, FOTT
Past Chair of Yokuts Group, Sierra Club
Past Conservation Chair, Yokuts Group
Past Director, Ecology Action

Bob Hackamack, Vice President
Engineer
FERC Settlement Agreement negotiator
Director, Tuolumne River Preservation Trust
Past Chair, Tuolumne River Conference, Sierra Club
Past Chapter Representative, Northern California Regional Conservation Committee, Sierra Club
Past Secretary, Yokuts Group, Sierra Club

Linda Larrick, Secretary
Farmer
FERC Settlement Agreement negotiator
Past Treasurer, Ecology Action
Tuolumne River Action Committee

John Murphy, Director
Attorney
Gravel Restoration Project Stanislaus River, 1997 and 1998
CalTrout Governor
Conservation Chairman, Stanislaus Fly Fishermen
Director, Tuolumne River Preservation Trust
Habitat Restoration Project, Tuolumne River, 1989-199?

Gordon Hollingsworth, Director
Attorney
Past President, Stanislaus Fly Fishermen
Incorporator and initial Board member, Children's Crises Center
Former member, DF&G San Joaquin River System Committee
Former Director, Family Service Agency, Modesto
Former member, Turlock Irrigation District Citizens' Advisory Water Committee
Former Director, Modesto Police Activities League

Sam Tyson, Director
Farmer
Past President, Ecology Action
President, Modesto Peace/Life Center
Treasurer, Stanislaus Safe Energy Committee

E.1

I-016911

I-016911

FRIENDS OF THE TUOLUMNE HIGHLIGHTS

- 1994-1995: Signatory to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission mediated settlement for terms of re-licensing Don Pedro Dam. Designed, promoted, and negotiated a $500,000 settlement fund for riparian habitat.

- 1995 to present: Participate in the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee.

- 1996 to present: Coordinate and work with the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD). Two members of Friends of the Tuolumne Board of Directors are also Associate Directors of the ESRCD.

- 1997 to present: Coordinate and work with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Tuolumne River Regional Park, encouraging them to properly restore the riparian corridor.

- 1997: Facilitation of cooperative agreement between Stanislaus County and the California Department of Fish and Game to purchase 41 acres along the Tuolumne River.

- 1998: Initiate and participate in a highly successful plan for improved management and restoration of land between the City of Modesto Airport and the Tuolumne River.

- 1998: Preparation and submission of a successful $732,000 CALFED proposal as a co-applicant with ESRCD on 145 acres for a perpetual conservation easement with restoration.

- 1998: Submission of the above proposal to the Anadromous Fish Restoration Fund of the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proposal was granted $377,000 through this source to begin the acquisition process.

- 1998: Publish a pamphlet, for distribution to the public, encouraging careful, wise, and responsible use of the river and its riparian habitat. Target groups include Scouts, the Great Valley Museum, the Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center, public schools, etc.

- An ongoing focus of Friends of the Tuolumne is to facilitate the flow of information among local environmental groups and local, county, state, and federal agencies. We make every effort to insure that all interested parties are aware of the activities of other groups and agencies.

E.2

I-016912

Project Title	Upper River Mile	Project Screening Point Totals				
		Ecosystem Processes	Salmonid Populations	Water Quality	Implementation Criteria	Grand Total
Spillway Pool Stranding Reduction	52.0	0	1	0	8	9
Long-term Gravel Introduction	51.6	5	5	0	12	22
Short-term Gravel Introduction	51.6	4	6	0	9	19
La Grange Backwater Elimination	50.3	6	1	0	11	18
Gasburg Creek Fine Sediment Reduction	50.5	4	5	2	12	23
Basso Backwater Elimination	47.9	7	4	0	9	20
Riffle 8 & 9A Gravel Enhancement	46.8	1	4	0	9	14
Dredger Tailing Reach Phase I Restoration	46.5	13	9	0	9	31
Dredger Tailing Reach Phase II Restoration	45.4	13	10	1	10	34
Dredger Tailing Reach Phase III Restoration	43.8	13	10	1	11	35
Tuolumne Resort Channel Modification	42.7	13	9	1	10	33
SRP 4	41.5	13	10	1	10	34
Warner Gulch Backwater	40.3	0	2	0	10	12
Gravel Mining Reach Floodway Restoration	40.3	13	10	1	13	37
Reed 4-Pumps	34.3	11	9	1	11	32
SRP 5	33.4	13	9	2	10	34
Hickman Bridge Backwater Elimination	32.0	0	2	0	10	12
SRP 6	31.0	13	10	2	9	34
SRP 7	29.7	13	9	2	9	33
SRP 8	27.8	13	9	2	9	33
SRP 9 & 10	25.9	13	9	2	9	33
Dry Creek Water Quality	16.4	2	2	5	11	20
Tuolumne River Water Quality Improvement	52.2	0	2	5	11	18

Shaded projects were selected as top priority projects and proposals have been developed as part of this plan.

Table 4-2. Prioritized Tuolumne River channel restoration sites, with prioritization criteria scoring.

Tuolumne River Restoration Plan, developed by McBain & Trush for the TRTAC

F

I-016913

Casual Birding Trip, March 27, 1999, with Stanislaus Audubon Society

Blackbird, Red-winged
Bluebird, Western
Bushtit
Duck, Wood
Ducks, Mallard
Eagle, Bald
Egret, Great
Finch, House
Flicker
Goldfinch, American
Goldfinch, Lesser
Greater Yellowlegs
Hawk, Cooper's
Hawk, Red-shouldered
Hawk, Red-tailed
Heron, Great Blue
Jay, Scrub
Kestrel
Killdeer
Kingfisher
Kite
Magpie, Yellow-billed
Nuthatch, White-breasted
Oriole, Northern
Osprey
Owl, Great Horned
Phoebe, Black
Pipit, American
Sparrow, Golden-crowned
Sparrow, Lincoln's
Sparrow, Song
Sparrow, White-crowned
Swallow, Cliff
Swallow, Tree
Swift, White-throated
Thrush, Hermit
Titmouse, Plain
Towhee, California
Vulture, Turkey
Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Woodpecker, Downy
Wren, House

Birds expected on future birding trips:

Chat, Yellow-breasted
Common Moorhen
Falcon, Prairie
Heron, Green
Owl, Western Screech
Rail, Virginia
Sora

G

I-016914

Swallow, Northern Rough-winged
Thrasher, California
Towhee, Spotted
Vireo, Hutton's

Snakes and Amphibians expected to be found:

Bull frog
Chorus frogs
Common garter snake
Common King snakes
Foothill Yellow-legged frog
Gilbert skink
Gopher snake
Northern alligator lizard
Pacific Slender salamander
Ring neck snake
Striped racer snake
Western fence lizard
Western Pacific rattle snake
Western pond turtle
Western racer snake

Additional Birds by Friends of the Tuolumne, February and March, 1999

Bittern, American
Cormorant
Crow
Eagle, Golden
Egret, Snowy
Geese, Canadian
Hawk, Marsh
Hawk, Ferruginous
Pigeon
Quail, California
Woodpecker, Acorn

6 cont.

I-016915